

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-25 have been cancelled. Claims 26-51 have been added.

Claims 26-49 correspond to canceled claims 1-24. The new claims have generally been rewritten as method of treatment claims from the second medical use format. New claim 40 corresponds to canceled claim 15 and has been rewritten as an independent claim. In addition, the dependencies of multiply dependent claims have been amended to comply with U.S. Patent & Trademark Office rules and to reduce the filing fee due. Many of the formerly multiply dependent claims are now dependent upon only a single claim. Claims have also been amended to use consistent language and to correct grammatical and typographical errors.

Claims 26 and 35 differ from claims 1 and 10 in that they recite that "a therapeutically effective amount" of the substance or the nucleic acid is administered "to a patient in need of treatment" for a fibrotic disease. Support for the recitation can be found, for example, in the last paragraph of page 25.

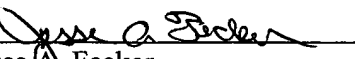
Claim 34 differs from claim 9 in that it recites "polyethylene glycol" instead of "polyethylene". Support for the recitation can be found, for example, at page 20, lines 5-6.

Claims 50 and 51 recite that the fibrotic disease is a connective tissue disease and scleroderma, respectively. Support for the new claims can be found, for example, at page 11, lines 19-22.

Please charge any fees that may be due upon filing this Preliminary Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw, under Order No. SLII-P01-001.

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Respectfully submitted,

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